NOTABLE PICTURES SHOWN. One of Vermeer's Rare Paintings-Agt

Exhibitions in London. LONDON, Dec. 13 .- Were it not that the "Venus" of Velasquez has attracted so much attention and given rise to so much controversy the exhibition of an important work by that rare and able painter Jan Vermeer of Delft might have been recog-

nized as a more notable event. The "Venus" has been described at length in THE SUN. People still continue to write to all the leading papers about it; some to say that if it is not purchased for the National Gallery it will be a national disgrace. others to say that if £40,000 or £50,000 is epent on this nudity it will be a national disgrace; some to say that this masterpiece will be a noble example to students; some to say this flaunting female will deprave the citizens.

No point of view lacks an exponent, and probably there is no minute of the day in which somebody does not express fear lest the "Venus" go to America. At present about £15,000 has been subscribed toward keeping her on this island. Berlin is also a

The example of the exquisite art of Jan Vermeer is "The Letter," the picture formerly in the Secretan collection, whence it went to Russia. Some would say that it is one of about forty existing pictures by Vermeer of Delft; others hold that of these forty not more than two dozen are genuine.

He evidently produced a relatively small number of pictures, and apparently there was no great demand for even these few until a couple of centuries had passed. Until quite recent times his works were commonly sold under the names of other and more marketable artists, such as Pieter de

Presumably the rare and delicate qualities of Jan Vermeer's art needed for their appreciation taste of a refinement hardly to be found in his lifetime. Even now there are quantities of people, professedly fond of art, who fail to see wherein his surpassing excellence consists.

Most people in considering a figure picture look at the persons represented. seeking in these a human interest, facial expression or explanatory gesture. And this was what old Vermeer cared least to

In "The Letter" the figures are a lady seated at a writing table and a servant standing behind the table. The faces have little interest in the way of character, and all the action is the handing of a letter. Thus those who look only for the human interest in a picture would soon turn away.

From this man's works generation after generation has turned away, and what they have omitted to note in this one is, first, the unusual beauty of the color schemecolors ususual both in themselves and in their association.

The lady wears a jacket of pale saffronyellow silk, bordered with ermine. This and a touch of orange contrast with the curious gray-blue of the table cloth, the rich but quiet darker blue of the servant's apron and a massing of harmonious gravs

In the choosing of the exact shades of the colors there is exquisite and fastidious taste, and in their rendering exceptional skill, exceptional knowledge of the painter's craft and fine restraint. It is an appeal to those who have seen very many pictures and are well acquainted with the limitations of even great painters.

There are marvellously subtle gradations. passages from light to shadow; and in the lady's hair there are pearls, and round her neck pearls, and in her ear a great pearl drop. One can imagine the old painter saying to himself: "Anybody could paint a pretty face, but I will paint the lustre and rare quality of this great pearl and the luminous delicacy of the shadow it casts on the warm flesh."

In this, and not alone in this, he was unrivalled, and to the connoisseur his pictures are a delight. Perhaps the worst and the best that can be said of Jan Vermeer of Delft is that instead of expressing the souls of the people he painted, he gave a soul to the material objects by which they

were surrounded. "The Letter" is not so good a Vermeer as some of those in Holland, but it is much better than either of the specimens in the London National Gallery. One might suppose it slightly retouched in one or two places, but Mr. Sulley, the exhibitor, says this is not the case.

The Society of Portrait Painters, showing nearly three hundred works at the New Gallery, Regent Street, has just elected as its president W. Q. Orchardson, R. A., an artist known and esteemed all over the civilized world. He succeeds the founder and first president, the late Archibald Stuart Wartley, the pupil of Millais, and a man well known in smart society and in the world of sport.

Naturally, the latter qualifications are of great advantage to a portrait painter, but this one added to them a real if somewhat florid talent. Painters are frequently taken up by smart society, who really have little or no talent. Then they usually get commissions from America, and sometimes there is confusion in America between the artistic qualities they are incorrectly supposed to possess, and the social opportunities and business aptitudes they really

The exhibit of the new president, Orchardson, is a refined and dignified portrait of the Rev. B. H. Alford. J. J. Shannon, A. R. A., shows a good portrait of the Earl of Feversham. It is here that Herman Herkomer's portrait of Mr. Choate, and John Lavery's Miss Choate, are on view; and among the numerous exhibitors are several clever Frenchmen, such as Blanche, Besnard, Lucien Simon and De la Gandara.

The painter last named sends an amusing, affected and pleasantly mysterious portrait of the French poet, the Comtesse de Noailles - a slim enigma on a silk cerulean sofa, a

Blanche has a room all to himself at the Leicester Galleries. Here the artist is represented chiefly by sketches and studies, but as the works of J. E. Blanche are usually of the nature of sketchessketches of character-these do not seem very new.

Several of his flower studies are new a new departure, and one that is far from successful. His flowers are all too grossly material. Some still life studies, things to eat, such as "bar en gelée a la Russe," or "cold fish and lettuce," are more success ful, not to say appetizing, and among the keenly seen portraits is the rather well known one of Aubrey Beardsley.

Another room at the Leicester Galleries is now filled with the work of Charles Conder, whom the English papers, for some mysterious reason, call an Australian. In birth, however, he is a Britisher, and in art he descends from Watteau, and his trouble is that he cannot draw and has

not much dexterity in paint. To say that an artist descends from Watteau implies that nature has been rarely generous, and one might indeed look far without finding a colorist of such charm as Conder. His gay fancies, one must suppose, present themselves to him as charming designs, but in transferring them to paper or canvas he is woefully hampered by his inability to draw well.

This is the more regrettable because

he seems to be by preference a painter of the nude. And it must further be said that these nudes are naked. Their undeniable charm is decadent. It is not necessary that one subject should be Mile. de Maupin to call to mind Theophile Gautier. Briefly, these are "fair and flagrant things," as Crashaw has it.

At the Goupil Gallery the work of another colorist may be studied-one who owes his recognition mainly to John Sargent, R. A. This is H. B. Brabazon, who is 85.

He was upward of 70 before he met with any kind of recognition at all, but, fortunately, he did not need it. He was an amateur. Now he is only known to a limited public, chiefly painters, writers and connoisseurs of sorts, and he probably has no more enthusiastic admirer than Sargent, who owns several of his works.

Brabazon is an artist who has not gone hrough the professional painter's training; but he knows just what he can do, and what he does he does exquisitely. He sees exquisitely, selects and expresses easily what he selects.

His works are commonly sketches in water color or pastel-sketches which may be called slight because they omit so much, but which are also singularly complete as an expression of certain beautiful aspects of places and things. Brabazon's view of a place is immaterial-something like a memory or dream, and still more like the picture as it first presents itself to the mind of the artist.

His subjects are chosen mainly at Venice the Italian lakes, Capri and Naples, Lucerne, Mentone, Avignon and Algiers. And some of the most interesting of all are memories of other painters, such as Turner, Claude, Rubens, Velasquez and Guardi.

The annual show of the Women's International Art Club has just opened at the Grafton Galleries. This is the seventh and best exhibition, and one of the most important pictures, a canvas probably measuring about 14 feet by 8, is "Le Jour de la Grêve, Venise," by Mlle. Rondenay.

It may be remembered that Mile. Rondenay made up her mind to compete for the Prix de Rome, an unheard of and seemingly unpermissible thing for a woman to do. "Encouragement spécial de l'Etat" was the way in which the French authorities patted her on the shoulder, and at last year's Salon the picture gained a medal of the third class. There is undoubted power in the big canvas, representing desponding men and women grouped on and about a flight of stone steps, but there is too much space to let, as artists saythe composition hardly fills out the space.

Miss Cameron, a Scottish pupil of the Spanish painter Zuloaga, follows bravely, if at some distance, the way of her master and shows among other things a gory bullfight. Thérèse Schwartze and Olga di Boznanska, whose work is seen in many European exhibitions, are fairly represented

Of numerous American members only a few support this year's show, and this is regretted by a good many people. Among names deserving of special mention are Mary Macmonnies, Bethia Clarke, Gertrude Leese and A. Delasalle.

THE BIG LIBRARIES.

Paris Now in the Lead With 2,500,000 Books-Washington's Progress.

The last report of the Librarian of Congress shows the number of books in the Congressional Library to be 1,300,000. The inrease in their number is so rapid that it is expected that in the course of time the Congressional Library will be the largest in he world.

Before the extension of the Congressional Library to its present dimensions the Paris National Library, with 2,000,000 books, stood first. The library of the British Museum and the St. Petersburg Imperial Library followed, with 1,000,000 volumes each.

Berlin, Dresden, Munich and Copenhagen had large libraries at that time, and there were 350,000 books in the library of the Vatican in Rome, and 300,000 in the Bodleian Library at Oxford. The Washington Library followed with 230,000 books and the Astor Library, in this city, had 150,000.

The Paris Library has now 2,500,000 books, he library of the British Museum has 2,000,000, the Imperial Library in St. Petersburg 1,500,000 and the library of Congress 1.300,000. At the present rate of increase the Congressional Library will soon overtake that of St. Petersburg, and will ultimately overtake the British Museum and the National Library in Paris.

Meanwhile, under the system of consolida on of libraries now going on, the New York Public Library, a combination of three big libraries, will exceed even the Congressional Library.

The Harvard Library at Cambridge has now 560,000 books. Chicago University 300,000, and Yale and Columbia universities 300,000 each.

VARIETIES OF TRUFFLES.

The Violet Is Most Highly Esteemed; the Summer Most Seen in Markets.

From the American Homes and Gardens Of varieties we may mention, violet truffle, which abounds in Périgord and Provence. It is covered with polygonal warts and often marked with rusty spots. Its weight usually ranges from sixty to a hundred grams (2 to 3½ ounces), though specimens weighing 500 grams (more than a pound) are sometimes found. At maturity, which it reaches in late autumn or winter its flesh is black with a reddish or violet sheen its agreeable flavor and delicate odor make it the most highly esteemed of all varieties. The black truffle, smaller than the pre ceding, and of variable size, is found about

Its flesh is gray or bister, marked with light red spots at maturity. It is not in very great iemand, because of its musky odor. The St. John's or summer truffle is gathered in July or in October. The tubers of this species are rounded and have a brownish black skin and large polygonal warts, striped transversely. The flesh, nearly white at rst, becomes, on ripening, a clay yellow or is found everywhere in the forests of central and southern France, growing under horn-beams, birches and hazel bushes. Though its rather coarse, onionlike odor lessens its value, it is almost the only variety seen in

four inches below the surface of the ground

the markets of England, Germany and Pied-The truffle known as the "grosse fouine. or "pitchfork," somewhat resembles the St John's truffle, but is distinguished from it by the smallness of its warts, its moderate size rough black skin and dark tawny gray flesh marked with fine black lines and usually

by a broad cleft near the base.

Another wild species which is still sold is the musk truffle, known in Provence by the is the musk trume, known in Provence by the name of "caillette."

The remaining wild species, which are included under the general designation of "dog's nose," because of their resemblance to the muzzle of that useful quadruped, possess no gastronomic importance.

Identity in a Street Car.

From the Indianapolis News. They were going to the theatre. The car was crowded, and there being two or three polite men left in Indianapolis, one of the two or three gave her a seat in the forward end of the car. He remained on the plat-form to finish a cigar. She always lets him

do that.

When the conductor came along the smoker possessed of a "steady" girl presented two possessed of a tickets. "Who is this for?" asked the ticket pro-

curer.
"The lady up in front."
"Yes, but there are several up there."
"Oh, well, let's see: I'm paying for the one under Eat-'em-Quick biscuits."

POEMS WORTH READING.

The Old Iron Stove. I hate to part with you, old stove! You've warmed me these forty years; And stayed by me more than half my life. Bright days and dark days, sad days and glad days, Autumns chill and winters cold, fave found you always in your place Though we have passed some dreary days by your

We have also had jolly times around your genial glow, And you held your peace and were true. What a good friend is he who stands by you always, Keeps your counsel and is never false to your trust. Whenever I fed you, old stove, on coal or chips

or old newspapers You digested them all and glowed with a cheerful warmth. When the smoke pine sulked you told me. And when I cleaned out the soot how you rejoiced And breathed freer and lighted up the room

And breathed freer and lighted up the room
With the joy of being able to serve me as before.
Royally you did your work for forty years.
But now your day is done and you must go or be
turned full serve or old light. turned fnto scrap or old iron. But, old stove, you will not go to the scrap hear For it is certain I will shortly follow. Another forty years, aye less, and I also will be gone. Old stove, you were faithful to the end.

Would I could always be as true as you,

Never indolent, never weary, never careless, never impatient of my work. Good by, old stove! I do not know who will get you or how he will use you: But he and you will never be better friends than would not of my own accord let you go,

For I can never forget the good work you have done; But duty calls and you will heed, For you have never complained or shirked a duty. And you will go into scrap iron or be melted in a is cheerfully as you went into a stove May I be as ready to meet the inevitable change That will shortly come to us all.

CHESTER, Pa. DAVID M. JOHNSON

> A Protest. It is framed in little mottoes,

It is dinged into your ear.
And the helpful poet sings it in a ditty loud and clear; Yet, although procrastination As the thief of time they brand,

And eternity's vast ages

Will they never comprehend it That some larceny is grand? Nay, I'm sure that when in heaven We have reached the far off shore

Still are rolling on before, If your harp is for a moment Lying silent on the floor, Then some conscientious spirit Will admontsh as of yore:

"Do It now! McLANDBURGE WILSON,

Ballad of John Nevins. own Manhattan harbor in the winter weather (Bitter blew the east wind, roaring in from sea)

oughing through the spindrift, a tug and scot Caught the driving blast abeam and shifted

Laden to her rall top, listing and careening, nged the scow as one who grimly grapple with his fate; n a mighty roller swept, white crest over leaning. Turned the scow as turtles turn, helpless with

its weight. Vevins-Johnny Nevins-saw, agonized of feature, From the tugboat's ley deck, which was duty's

place, e scow was gripped and whelmed, some poor fellow creature Clutched and crushed relentlessly in the sea's

embrace. Hesitate? Give aught a thought? Nay, with dare to danger (There was self-forgetfulness) overboard he sped, Snatched from out the arms of death the body of

the stranger-Succored him till rescue came; can aught more be said? Aye, a word of laurelling; aye, a song of honor, For the Johnny Nevinses, fearless in life's fray

Proud be we to give them praise, each of us a donor Hall the gallant heroes, then -men of every day CLINTON SCOLLARD.

When Phyllis Danced.

When Phyllis danced—I gazed spellbound Upon her sweet, enchanting graces, In ev'ry dimple, ah! I found

When Phylls danced-my heart's requite murmured not, love was so coylsh In manner boyish.

When Phyllis danced-ah, mel ah, me My tongue was dumb though love was plenty When Phyllis danced me on her knee:

A Little Soul. A little soul looked out upon the night
Half loosed from its poor battered body there, Shivering at thought of going forth all bare into the void from which it came, so bright. Looked forth and saw the troop of bodiless shape

Blown by the wind of fate. Then sobbing, said the little soul: "I am afraid m such a feeble little light. I might blow out, yo

KATHERINE D. U. BLAKE.

Plato Deceived.

From the New Orleans Times Democrat From the New Orients Times-Democrat.
The ghost of Plato came to earth
And wandered sadiy all around;
Companiouship of human sort
He sought but somehow never found,
Until he came unto a maid
And man all sitting on the ground.

The man was speaking; and the maid At intervals exclaimed aloud: "The Idea! The Idea!" Which made oid Plato rather proud, "By Pallas!" he observed, "Behold A girl not of the common crowd!

"She doth insist, as I perceive, Upon 'the idea,' as I In my philosophy have taught, Else why that oft repeated cry?"

Perhaps 'twas just as well the sage Stayed not for question or reply: A Bacteriological Nightmare.

A Bacteriological Nightmare
From the Washington Star,
Microbes in the water,
Microbes in the air;
Microbes in the ple and cake,
Microbes everywhere!
Laying for you in the cold,
Likewise in the heat;
Every time you draw your breath
Or stop to drink or eat.

In horrid consternation I vainly try to sleep.
I know that through the casement Bacilli strive to creep.
Though as creation's mighty lords We swagger and pretend,
The microbe seems to be the one Who triumphs in the end,

From the Milwaukee Sentinet We can sterilize food. We can sterilize drink In fact we can sterilize
Thoughts that we think:
The knowledge of one thing,
However, is missing—
No savant has told how
To sterilize kissing!

Come Back to the Flat Come back to the flat.

The old janitor's fired.

And a handsome young coon Is the latest one hired. He stands at the door With a whisk in his hand And brushes your garments

From dust and from sand.

Just tip him a nickel He brings up your beer And closes his eyes To the things that look queer, Long promised repairs The landlord has fixed. And the wall paper sticks.

All salesmen and pedlers Fly out on their heads. And the night walking angels Keep shy of our beds, And every reform They are getting down pat; So don't go to Jersey

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

I wish to ask a decision in a dispute. The Army and Nary Journal in Answering a correspondent states that Prince Louis of Battenberg is the son of Priace Alexander of Hesse and Countess von Hauke, who were married morganatically. At a club a member remarked that it seemed an ungracious thing to say of a departed guest that he was illegitimate. Another member asserted that under the laws of Germany such marriages were legal, and the offspring legitimate. What, under the laws of Germany, is the legal status of such a connection and of the children born of 1? Is a morganatic marriage in Germany legitimate? Are children born of such arrangements legitimate? Can a man in Germany contract a morganatic marriage and subsequently, without being divorced or the morganatic wife dying, contract a lawful marriage with another woman? Germany.

The fallure to appreciate the true nature of mor-

ganatic wedlock is by no means uncommon. The legal definition is this: "A lawful and inseparable conjunction of a single man of noble and illustrious birth with a single woman of an inferior or plebelan station, upon this condition, that neither the wife nor children should partake of the title, arms or dignity of the husband, nor succeed to his inherit-ance, but should have a certain allowance assigned to them by the morganatic contract. The mar-riage ceremony was regularly performed, the union was for life and indissoluble, and the children were legitimate.". This statement, digested from Article 835 of the Prussian code, completely answers the specific questions of the correspondent. Re-pugnant as the system, when imperfectly comprehended, may seem to us, a careful examination of this definition will make it clear that it is, where applicable, a very wise and very wholesome provision, which permits full play to the affections and a freedom of marriage choice. To a heredi-tary prince regnant the parties in interest to his marriage are not merely the man and the woman; s third and most important interest is that of the reigning family which has the right to rule or of the people who consent to such rule. The morganatic marriage permits a marriage of affection to the man who underlies the prince, the man marries thereby, and not the ruler.

To settle a dispute kindly decide the following:
A bets that about ten years ago, during the Venezuelan controversy. President Cleveland issued what was practically an ultimatum to the British Government, through the regular diplomatic channels, that any further attempt upon its part to enforce its claims in the manner it had adopted would be regarded by the United States as a violation of the Mouroe Doctrine and as such a sufficient casus belli. A further contends that Great Britian then backed down from her previous position. B contends that after Great Britian ad declined to arbitrate her dispute with Venezuela. President Cleveland simply made recommendations to Congress suggesting that an American commission be named to visit Venezuela and report upon the matter at issue, with the intention that the United States should enforce, at all costs, the findings of this commission. Which is right?

Mr. Cleveland wrote the Venezuela message of

Mr. Cleveland wrote the Venezuela message December 17, 1895. That state paper was un-mistakably ratified from end to end of the land, and over night became the united voice of the United States, never before so united in half a century. The resources of diplomatic communi-cation had been exhausted and the President laid before the Congress the diplomatic exchanges. No ultimatum had then been issued; as events proved, no formal ultimatum was ever to be issued.

The President in the message laid before the Con gress the papers showing the history and instant position of the case and the relation of the Mon-roe Doctring thereto; in fact, the Monroe Doctrine to the West on Hemisphere was stated anew Mr. Cleveland's recommendation, indeed, was that a commission be named. But it was not "simply" made. There was this statement, one worthy to be remembered even as it was warmly received; "In making these recommendations I am fully alive to the full responsibility incurred and keenly realize all the consequences that may follow, I am nevertheless firm in my conviction that while It is a grievous thing to contemplate the two great English speaking peoples of the world as being otherwise than friendly competitors in the onward march of civilization and strenuous and worthy rivals in all the arts of peace, there is no calamit which a great nation can invite which equals that which follows supine submission to wrong and njustice and a consequent loss of national self respect and honor, beneath which is saicided and effect was immediate at home, scarcely less so abroad.

Please give a short account of the mutiny of Midshipman Spencer, and his execution. Did not the President approve the finding of the court-martial before the officer was executed?

F. E. CLIFFORD.

The incident has been too much the subject of controversy to permit its being disposed of in any such brief account as alone would be here possible It forms one of the most interesting chapters (the 123d) in Benton's "Thirty Years View." It was a topic which stirred Gall Hamilton to unremitting and finally successful efforts to clear the memory of young Spencer. As to the definite point to which inquiry is directed, the answer is that the President did not approve the findings, for the trial, if so irregular a proceeding can be called a court-martial, was held on the high seas and Midshipman Spencer and two others were hanged from the yard arm of the brig Somers before the vessel returned to port, and takes one, B takes the other. although land was not far away.

Can you give a clear and simple definition of the It would scarcely be possible to add to the clarit and simplicity of the definition established by John Stuart Millin his "System of Logic," Book 1, chapter 2: "A concrete name is a name which stands for a thing an abstract name is a name which stands for an attribute of a thing." And, a little later, recurring to the sentence of this definition, Mill continues: I have used the words concrete and abstract in he sense annexed to them by the schoolmen, who, notwithstanding the imperfections of their phi osophy, were unrivalled in the construction technical language, and whose definitions, in logic at least, though they never went more than a little way into the subject, have seldom, I think, been altered but to be spoiled."

Is there a place in Ireland of the name of Varg-ney and what county is it in? Also what counties centre in Athlone and what part is considered the centre of Ireland? J. P. HILEY. Vargney does not appear on the maps and we have access to no list of the baronies. At Athlone one bank of the Shannon is in West-meath, famed for the helfers of Mullingar, hollow to the heels; the other bank is in Roscommon, and the part of Lough Ree that lies in Longford brings that county pretty close. When you measure east and west and north and south Athlone itself is about

as near the centre as one could wish. Is the statement "The rarest of rare things" correct? It was made by a learned judge in the course of a decision, the objection is made that its permissible, but not correct. F. P. WILLISTON.

Whatever is permissible becomes, if permitted long enough, absolutely correct in English speech for right of user is as indefeasible in language as in real property. That is to be seen in two such good words as "humbug" and "mob," the one of which was roundly denounced in Queen Anne's time as a blackguard word and the other as too vulgar for polite use. "Fairest of the fair" having a recognized standing, one may not seek to take away the right of recognition from "the rarest

of the rare." My son aged 15, is desirous of entering Annap olis. What are the requirements to gain this object? The minimum age of admission is 16. The en-trance examination calls for a good grounding in no more than the common school branches of study The practical way to go about securing the ap-pointment is to learn from your Representative in Congress when he has a vacancy to fill. Then se to work to get the appointment. It is now a some-what general custom for each Congressman to offer the appointment to the winner in a competitive examination open to all the boys in his district who

What is vyopathy? Is it different from oste opathy? Where could I obtain information about this system of healing ills?

JOHN CORNISH.

Oswegatchie.—Mr. Tallman may be interested to know that Oswegatchie is an iroquois word meaning little river winding around a mountain. For the Presentation was built in 1749, not 1748, by Father Picquet. The cornerstone of this fort has an inscription in Latin which reads that way. This stone is over the entrance to the Oswegatchie Town Hall.

EDWIN W. THOMAS.

The question of the date seems settled at 1748 by these two citations in Paris Document X (O'Callaghan's "Documentary History of New York. Vol. 1, page 423 and 424:) "30 Sept. 1748. The Abbé Picquet departs from Quebec for Fort Frontenac; he is to look in the neighbourhood of that For for a location best adapted for a village for the Iroquois of the Five Nations who propose to embrace Christianity." "31⁸⁴ 8^{ber,} 1719. Mr. de la Jonquière sends c plan drawn by Sleur de Lery of the ground selected by the Abbé Picquet for his mission and a letter from the Abbé containing a Relation of his voyage and the situation of the place. He says he left the fourth of May of tast year with twenty five Frenchmen and four Iro-quois Indians; he arrived the thirtieth at the River de la Présentation, called Soegatzy. The land there is the finest in Canada."

Betty Martin.-A modestly anonymous contribu tor writes that this classic poem, recently called

Heigh Betty Martin, tiptoe fine: She couldn't get a man to suit, her mind; Some too coarse and some too fine. For pretty Betty Martin, tiptoe fine.

Will a shot from a revolver or rifle fired in a verti-cal position return to and strike the earth with the same force and momentum as it left the revolver or rifle?

W. B. M. In theory, yes; and the theory has been borne out SCHOOL FOR CARD PLAYERS.

Auction Pitch, M. P. S. says: A wants 1 point and B wants 2. B gets the pitch and makes high game to A's low. Who wins:

B. because he was the bidder and has first

count.

Pedro. M. J. M. says: A wants 1 and B wants 7 to go out. B pitches and makes high, low, pedro to A's game. Who wins?

The bidder, who has the first count. Cinch. J. T. R. says: A wants 1 to go. B is the oldder. If A gcts his 1 is he out? No. The proper way to score in einch is to deduct he lower score from the higher and score the

ifference. In this case B simply counts one less than he made, deducting A's point. This rule prevents "sweating out" by players who refuse Bridge. B. B. A. says: If A and B lose 662 points of C and D, do A and B pay 331 each or 662 each? The general rule is for each individual player to pay his right hand adversary the amount of the rubber, which would make A and B each lose 662

points. This point is not stated in the laws of the game, which are largely copied from the old whist laws, in which the same ambiguousness gave rise to many disputes on this very point.

C. C. says: A leads, all follow suit, and B, who is A's partner, gathers in the trick without opposition from the dealer, although dummy played the highest card and actually won the trick. A says nothing, but dummy says: "May I ask what hand took the last trick?" According to law 62, dummy has no right to make any remark calling attention to the irregularity. If he does so in this case he affects the dealer's right to exact a penalty for the lead out of turn

which B would naturally have made if dummy had said nothing. At the end of the hand dummy may correct an erroneous score, so that he could then call attention to the fact that this trick was not A.B's, but the dealer's. The practical difficulty in such cases has been found to be that dummy's statement at the end of the hand is usually dis puted and the players deny that dummy held the high card he says he held. Our bridge laws are still very far from perfect, especially with regard to dummy

Cribbage. J. C. C. says: How should a hand of four fours and a seven be counted up? By laying out the fours in a square it will be seen that each side and each diagonal make a pair and these six pairs are worth 12 holes. With each of these pairs the seven can be combined to make a fifteen, 12 more holes; 24 in all.

C. T. T. says: Can a player count a go when his adversary has no card in hand and does not tell Yes. A player can say "Go" to himself if he cannot play without passing 31. He then pegs for go and for last card.

W. S. S. says: A dispute arises over the coff this hand 5, 6, 6, 7, 8. One player insists it is worth 24, reckoning a double run of three, 8, 7, 8, finally a double run of three, 8, 7, 8, finally a double run of four, 5, 6, 7, 8. To this dds the fifteen—two and the pair, making 24. While the laws of cribbage state that any se quence may be reckoned again if it ban be rebuilt by the substitution of another card, which is what the player probably has in mind, it has never been the custom to allow a player to divide up sequences in this manner making a run of three out of a run of four. Strange to say the laws of the game do not state that it shall not be done, and no work on cribbage points out that sequences are not to be split up in this manner. Attention has never been called to the point before in this column.

Dominoes. C. R. J. says: A bets B that he will call a domino drawn by B, odd or even. A calls odd and B draws the double blank. Who wins? The double blank is even, just as the number of a note is even if it ends in 0. It may be remarked n passing that A is foolish to call odd, because the odds against its being odd are 4 to 3. There are so that a person who bet on even all the time would have odds of 16 to 12 in his favor.

S. S. says: In a block game, 500 up, A is 300 and B is 150 when B blocks on twos. A says "No. I have the deuce trey." It is then found that the set is trregular, there being eight twos in it. What should be done? All the counts made on the deal in which the the difficulty is to tell just what those counts were. unless the players have made a mark at the end of each deal. It would seem possible, however, to go back over the play, domino by domino, and to take back the points scored.

Euchre. H. W. J. says: If a lone hand is euchred by his two opponents, how many points do they core, two or four? Two only. It is in railroad euchre, when a lone hand plays against a lone hand and the lone hand that made the trump is euchred, that the euchre

M. C. says: There are three prizes. A and B tie for first place with 12 points each, C coming next with 11. A and B cut for first prize and A wins. Several members insist that C gets second prize and that B gets none, as he cut for first prize and lost it. A and B do not cut for first prize, but to decide which shall have the choice of first or second. two highest scores must win the two highest prizes and they cut to decide which. If A wins the cut

C. T. R. says: Can a player who has not a trump in his hand order up the dealer? him from making more than two points on a hand when to score four points would be giving him an he should always order up unless he has a certain

Hearts, J. A. T. says: How can three or four players settle in a friendly game when they desire to play for so much a heart taken in by each? The fairest way is for each player to put into the pool for each heart he takes in as many chips as there are players besides himself. When all have paid up, each player then takes out of the pool one counter for every heart he did not take in. Suppose four play. A takes in 4 hearts, B 7, C 2 and D none. A pays in 12, B pays 21, C pays 6, There are now 39 chips in the pool. D Draws out 13, as there were 13 hearts that he did no get stuck with. Adraws out 9, B 6 and C 11, and the pool is emptled again. It has been demonstrated that in sweepstake hearts one player may take in only 58 hearts in 60 deals and yet be 46 counters out, while another may take in 500 hearts in the same deals and still be 46 ahead.

Sixty six. J. H. H. says: A has the lead and plays a card, turning down the trump after he has led, but before B has played to the trick. E bets A must close before he leads.

As long as B has not played it does not see make much difference as to the exact moment that A cioses, because closing is simply a notificacation to B that he must follow suit if he can

Poker. E. C. S. says: Only two players are left into bet. H calls J, and J says, "Kings and sevens," showing them. H says, "That's good" and J takes in the pot, raking the chips into the table pocket. H then discovers that he held aces up and shows them. He thought he had aces only. Who wins the pot now? There is no pot, J having taken it in. H mus suffer for his own error in not following the rules of the game, which distinctly say that when a player is in a call he shall show his hand to the poard. Had H laid down his eards when he called

J there would have been no dispute. W. W. W. says: In dealing for the draw in an eight hand game, the cards run out at E's turn to ask. The dealer shuffles the discards of A. B. C and D. When it comes to G. can he demand that the discards of E and F be mixed with the pack before he is helped?

Not unless the pack has run short again. A. R. J. says: Can a player straddle until the amount put up by the last straddler is the limit, just as he can increase any previous be: by the limit? For instance, if the limit is 50, blind 5, can 20 and 40 be put up to restraddle 10? No. The straddling must stop at such an amount that the first player to come in shall not have to put up more than the limit. If the straddling goes to 40, it calls 80 to play, which is not allowed. E. D. says: If two cards are exposed in the i, is it a misdeal?

Again: Must the dealer tell how many cards he drew any time he is asked, or only before a bet has been made? Only when he is asked by a player who has not made a bet, but who is still in the pool. R. R. S. says: A deals, and B opens the pot. C and D come in, but when it comes to E he announces that he has six cards. He has not looked at or lifted them. What should be done?

If all the other hands are correct, there must be a new deal, as a bet has been made. The latest rule is that the opener of any jack poshall always preserve his discard by placing it under the chips in the pool. It is no one's business whether

he splits or not, as his preserved discard will show for itself. The discard being always kept, whether the opener splits or not, no one can tell when he is splitting, so that his hand is not betrayed. H. P. K. wants to know all the instances that make a misdeal. This is to decide a bet. Law 15, Practical Poker, says: It is a misdeal if any card is found faced in the pack, when dealing the original hands, or if the pack is proved to be imperfect, or if the dealer gives six cards to more than one player, or if he deals too many or too few

hands, or if he exposes more than one card in deal

C. S. wants to know if a player who has passed a jack, refusing to open it, can raise the opener.
Certainly he can. A player may have a four card flush which will not open, but may be good enough to raise on if there is a good pot to play INSTRUCTION

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INSTRUCTION. Business Colleges.

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THE UNLUCKY CZAR. Mischances That Have Attended His Reign

-May a Fateful Month. It has been suggested that Nicholas II., Zar of all the Russias, is the unluckiest of living men. One would have no difficulty in showing at least that the Czar has had more mischance than any other monarch

on a throne. His first mishap was that which prophetically came to him in Japan. He was touring Europe and Asia in 1891 with Prince George of Greece. At Ossu, Japan, although he had had splendid entertain ment from the Mikado, there was a feeling antagonistic to Russia, and a Japanese drew a sword to kill him, when Prince George thrust it aside.

Afterward a Japanese maiden, in atone ment, went to a temple, placed a sword hilt down on the ground and fell upon it. You might call the event good or bad luck, since the Czarewitch was preserved.

But what he was preserved for was to turn later the first sod of the Siberian railway at the eastern end; and for the dignity-which he in no measure desired, but shrank from-of the crown which came to him soon after by reason of the death of his father, Alexander III., at Livadia. This attack occurred in May-a month

eventful to Nicholas II. It was in May that he was born, thirty-seven years ago. He did not want at 26 to rule the destiny of 130,000,000 people. He had always detested official life and the homage of courtiers. But the duties and responsi-bilities of autocracy fell upon him.

He began badly. On the occasion of his coronation thousands of his poorer subjects were crushed to death on Khudynskoi Plain. On that plain came what many regarded as the fatal evidence of the illustration. regarded as the fatal evidence of the ill luck which pursues and makes his life woeful. Just before his accession he had become betrothed to the Princess Alix of
Hesse. This, too, was outside his reckoning. Gossip had it that he didn't want
to marry a German Princess, and that the
Princess Hélène d'Orléans, daughter of the
Comte de Paris, was very much admired
by him. by him.

Ill luck seemed to pursue him in his mar-

ried life. For a time it seemed as though his wife would bear him nothing but daughters wife would bear him nothing but daughters and no heir to the throne. In 1895 she gave birth to the girl christened Olga; two years after to the one named Tatiana; two years later to Marie, then in 1901 to Anastasia.

Meantime the Czar and the people and the Czarina herself were disappointed. In August last year the Czarina bore him another child—and it was a boy. So his luck in this respect may be said to have turned.

However much a Liberal at heart, the best accounts agree that the Czar took up his inherited authority first with distaste, and

inherited authority first with distaste, and then with firm purpose of continuing his father's policies. He kept his father's counsellors, and declared he would uphold the principle of autocracy.

His ill luck interfered here, too. Pobledonostseff was obliged to retire. Muravieff was taken from him by sudden death. M. de Plehve, his baleful Minister of the Interior, a Muscovite Grand Vizier, was destroyed by a bomb. His best beloved uncle, the Grand Duke Sergius, was blown to pieces by a bomb. His Governor of Finto pieces by a bomb. His Governor of Fin-land was struck down.

Death has threatened his own person

many times. In Italy, in 1903, a man named Goertz was apprehended in time to spoil plot of assassination. An anarchist tained admission to a state reception at the palace of Tsarskoe-Selo in the uniform of a superior officer of the gendarmerie and was discovered, with bombs in his pockets, just in time. A girl student, Mlle. Merezhevsky, was frustrated in an attempt to kill him at the spring review in 1904. When, last January, with his court the Czar was ending the ceremony of blessing the water of the River Neva, a shrapnel

from a battery which was firing a salute exploded near the royal pavilion, killing exploded near the royal pavillon, killing one man and wounding others.

He completed the Siberian Railway, as his father desired, in order to consolidate Russian power in Asia and extend Russian trade, industry and commerce. But this railway was one of the causes that brought about the unlucky war with Japan.

The ineffectiveness of his numerous of the causes and externity at consiliations. reforms and attempts at conciliation— annulments of peasants' indebtedness, open-ings of altars of the Old Faith to undisturbed worship, decrees of religious freedom to all, concessions to the Jews, abolitions of flogging and Siberian exile—the failure of these

benefits to pacify his country might well be ascribed to the sinister element which seems to inhere in all his undertakings. Then there are all the disasters of the war with Japan and the massacres in various parts of the Empire to be considered in an account of the mischances that have attended his reign.

FIRST GOLD FOUND IN ALASKA. Twas Discovered by a Russian Trader on the Anauk River in 1832.

Gold was first discovered in Alaska on the Anauk River, a tributary of the Kus-kowim River, which joins the latter stream about twenty-five miles below the trading post of Kalamakoffsky, says the Ketchikan Mining Journal. The Anauk River was dis-covered by Ivan Simenson Lukeen in 1832, at which time he built a fort, called Lukeen's Fort, on the Kuskowim River, twenty-five miles above the mouth of the Anauk. It was party destroyed by natives in 1841, and, rebuilt by Kalamakoff, a Russian trader, was afterward called Kalamakoff redoubt In 1832 the headquarters of the Russian American Trading Company were at Sitka and supplies were transported thence to Lukeen's Fort by way of Nushagak River, Tic-chic river and lake and down the Anauk River to the Kuskowim River and thence up stream twenty-five miles to the fort. In 1837 the yearly supplies were sent by way of the mouth of the Kuskowim River and the old way abandoned as a summer route and used only for the purpose of sending out the mails during the winter by dog teams. It was the only winter route the Russians ever used from any point on the Yukon to the outside (Sitka), and was only abandoned for the purpose after they left the country. It was while on one of these trips in 1832 that the Russian's discovered gold on the Anauk, and it is known to-day as the Yellow River of the Russians. It is not known whether they ever attempted mining on any large scale or whether they found gold in paying quantities but it is thought to be the first time on record of gold being found

in this country. Lukeen was born of Russian and Spanish American Creole parents in the Ross colony in California. He was well educated at the Sitka school and proved to be an active, energetic and intelligent officer. In 1863 Lukeen ascended the Yukon River from St. Michael to Fort Gibbon, then a Hudson's Bay Company trading post, which was built by McMurray, who descended the Porcupin River in 1847. Lukeen was the first man who connected the Pelly River of Campbell and the sea. He returned to St. Michael that fall. In 1866 the Russian garrison at Kalamakoff reduott, in charge of Dementoff, was withdrawn, the United States having purchased Alaska from the Russians.

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Councilman W. S. Brown, accompanied by a neighbor, made a novel hunting trip to Wild (at Springs and vicinity yesterday.
Instead of guys and dors the hunters carried in a shotbag a slender white ferret, which is a pet of the Brown household.

Two rabbits were tracked to their winter dens by the hunters and both were victims of the ferret's prowess, but the hunters bagged no game, the ferret having cut the jugular vein of its victims and left them in their own Councilman Brown brought his pet uptown

Councilman Brown brought his pet uptown yesterday afternoon for the purpose of having its incisors filed, thus robbing it of its murderous weapons and making it more valuable as a hunting companion.

Brown has owned the ferret about two years and last winter, when the snow was on, succeeded in taking twenty-one rabbits alive by aid of the slender little hunter.

The plan pursued was to send the ferret into the holes where rabbits were supposed to be in hiding. An open hag then was held over the holes, and the startled cottontail thus were snugly bagged as they sought to escape.

The ferret is very tame and fond of being petted. No rat or mouse ever has been discovered about the Brown household since securing the cunning ratter.

The Largest Horse.

From Farm and Fireside.
The largest horse I can find in the United States is Royal Prince, who was raised in

He is a dapple gray, stands nearly seven feet high at the shoulder, weighs 2,800 pounds when fat, wears a No. 30 collar and a No. 9 shoe and is very finely proportioned.